The Central Water Commission periodically reviews the status of compliance of observations with the officials of the State Governments.

District Primary Education Programme

429. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether District Primary Education Programme is being implemented in the country with the financial assistance of World Bank;

(b) if so, whether any target for expansion and development of primary education in the entire country has been fixed through the said programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) the number of phases under which this programme is proposed to be completed in the entire country;

(e) the number of phases started at the end of March, 1996;

(f) the names of parts of the country, where this programme has been started; and

(g) the educational reforms being initiated under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (g). In order to realise the objectives of universalisation of elementary education, the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in November, 1994. The programme takes a holistic view of primary education development and seeks to operationalise the strategy of UEE through district specific planning and disaggregated target setting with emphasis on participatory processes for planning and management. The programme has a gender focus and seeks to enhance school effectiveness through inputs in teacher training, in teaching learning materials and processes. Capacity building at all levels-national, state, district and sub-district levels is an important component of the programme.

DPEP presently covers 11 States through assistance from the World Bank. The first phase of the programme was launched in November, 1994 after a credit agreement with the World Bank was signed for US $ 260.3 million (Rs. 800 crores approx.) for implementation of DPEP-I in 23 districts of six states of Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Haryana over a period of 7 years. Under DPEP-II 1996, a credit agreement has been signed with the World Bank in July, 1996 for a credit of US $ 425 million (Rs 1487.9 crores approx) which additionally covers about 70 districts in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and also provides for expansion in DPEP-I States during a project period of six years. In addition, one European Community (EC) has extended programme support to the DPEP Programme by making available a grant of ECU's 150 million (approximately Rs. 585 crores) for 19 districts in Madhya Pradesh. GDA of UK is also likely to extend assistance to 5 districts each in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal under DPEP.

The DPEP aims to cover about 110 districts by the end of Eighth Plan period by selecting educationally backward districts where female literacy is below the national average and where the Total Literacy Campaigns have been successful leading to enhanced demand for elementary education. The expansion of the programme is subject to availability of funding and the ability of State Governments to successfully implement the programme.

[English]

Shortage of Officers in Indian Army

*430. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE to pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of personnel in different ranks in our Army;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the overall and service-wise estimated shortage of personnel in Army; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to attract young talent for recruitment as officers in the Army to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). There are shortage of officers and men in the Indian Army. Service-wise/Arms-wise shortages in the Officers' cadre and at the level of Junior Commissioned Officers/Other Ranks is attached herewith as statement I and II respectively.

2. The relatively hazardous life in the Army and a general shift in employment preference of the youth in favour of soft jobs, appear to be the reasons for shortage.

3. To reduce the shortage of personnel in the Army, a number of measures have been taken by the Government. Some of the steps taken by Govt include introduction of University Entry Scheme, direct entry for NCC and certificate holders without going through the UPSC examination, enhanced recruitment of Permanent Commissioned Officers and Short Service Commissioned Officers and induction of